



TO: System Test Coordinators, ACT School Test Coordinators, and Special Education Directors
FROM: Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, 406-444-3656, jsnow@mt.gov
RE: MontCAS Updates (Smarter, ACT, MSAA)
DATE: March 29, 2016

Smarter Balanced

Improprieties and Irregularities in TIDE

Please enter Smarter Improprieties and Irregularities in TIDE. There is no need to send anything by ePass despite instructions on page 20 of the Smarter Test Administration Manual (TAM). Those instructions should now read:

“Documentation of Security Incidents: Use of Incident Log and Appeals System School and System (District) Test Coordinators should ensure that all test security incidents are documented in a Test Security Incident Log or other tracking method. The Test Security Incident Log is located at <https://mtsmarter.measuredprogress.org/portal/>. TAs must download the template and log incidents immediately upon identification. The description of each column header is included in the template. In addition to logging all test security incidents in the Test Security Incident Log, incidents requiring specific actions to be taken regarding the test itself are to be escalated — following the procedures noted in section 4.3 Test Security Required Action Steps. ...”

Performance Tasks (PT)

Because Montana is not using the Classroom Activities, a specific PT is not assigned to an entire school.

- The PTs will be randomly assigned to students.
- The TA should activate all of the PTs for the grade.
- The students will get the one assigned to them by TIDE

Newly Posted Smarter Documents on the OPI MontCAS Site

- 2016 Smarter Quick Tips – Participation Reports
http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/assessment/MontCAS_Docs/MontCAS/2016-Smarter-Quick-Tips-Participation-Reports.pdf
- Smarter 2016 Online Reporting System (ORS) Guide
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/SMART/S16smarterOnlineReportingGuide.pdf>

Webinar – Smarter Student Reports – Save the Date

- Wednesday, April 6, 3:15 pm
- Links will be sent in a future email

Smarter Training Hint

Although certification for administering the Spring 2016 Smarter assessments is not required, Porter Middle School principal, Julie Robitaille recommends the Test Administrator Certification tutorial. After accessing the MP portal, 2015-16 administration, choose either System Administrators or Test Coordinators and click the certification icon



ACT with Writing

Pre-test Completion of ACT Answer Booklets

ACT and OPI have prepared two documents with instructions for student completion of the pre-test information on the ACT answer booklets. Links to those documents on the ACT site were emailed by ACT on Tuesday, March 29. In addition to their being posted on the ACT site, the documents are on the OPI MontCAS site. Below are the OPI/MontCAS links.

- MontCAS Spring 2016 ACT Pre Test Instructions
http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/assessment/MontCAS_Docs/MontCAS/MontCAS-Spring-2016-ACT-PreTest-Instructions.pdf
- MontCAS ACT 2016 Manual Supplement
http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/assessment/MontCAS_Docs/MontCAS/MontCAS-ACT-2016-Manual-Supplement.pdf

OPI ACT Lead: Angie Koehler, akoehler2@mt.gov 406-444-3511

MSAA

Link to MSAA March 25 Update

http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Assessment/NewsLetters/16March_MSAA_Update.pdf

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Have a lovely day!